



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

September 2002

Class Act

School Recycling Program Newsletter

Enhance the Classroom Experience with King County Programs

The King County Solid Waste Division offers educational programs for students in grades K-12 that encourage an active awareness of the environment and the choices we can make to preserve and protect it. Programs include elementary school assemblies and workshops, and classroom presentations to middle

and high schools on waste reduction, recycling, biodiversity and soils. You may have received in the mail the 2002-03 King County Programs for Educators directory that describes the different programs and how to participate. The directory can also be



Back to School Issue

downloaded from the King County School Programs website:
<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/EduDir.htm>.

Get Ready for Recycling: Simple Steps to Start the Year

Here are a few simple steps to ensure that everyone starts the year recycling.

- 1 Locate the classroom recycle bin.
- 2 Place the bin in an easy location to use. Hint: placing it directly next to the



Every ton of paper made from recycled materials saves about 7,000 gallons of water.

Washington State Recycling Assn

trash will help improve your classroom recycling habits.

- 3 Review with students what can be recycled and what needs to go in the trash. Stress that contamination can compromise a good batch of recyclables.

- 4 Follow up this review with a fun, game-show type activity to test what the students learned. Invite two students at a time to the front of the room and have them stand on either side of a box of recyclable and non-recyclable items. You (the "game show host") can pull out items, one at a time, and ask your contestants, "Is this recyclable?" Your contestants can try to answer the question on their own or ask for a life-line (they can call on other students in the classroom for help). All this can be done in about 25 minutes!

- 5 Have students design posters that can go up in the hallways throughout the school. Your class can be responsible for teaching other students what can be recycled and what's considered contamination.

- 6 Each week, assign a different

pair of students to conduct surprise classroom waste-audits to see how well the class is doing.

- 7 A reuse box is another simple addition to your classroom. This box can be used for construction, graph, or any other paper scraps that are still usable. Remind your students that reducing their waste is really the first step to take before recycling.



Recycling a six-pack of aluminum cans saves enough energy to drive a car 5 miles or to power a 100-watt light bulb for 120 hours.

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Professional Development Opportunities



King County provides some excellent training opportunities to assist you in incorporating timely and relevant environmental events into your curriculum. Coming this fall are workshops that will help you and your students reduce exposure to hazardous chemicals that can affect your health.

Looking for an easy and fun way to teach science without being an expert? Hoping to find some simple experiments to teach your students about the scientific method? Searching for topics for journal writing? King County's *Hazards on the Homefront* guide can be the solution. The guide has easy-to-use lessons that teach your students about the dangers of household hazardous waste and the benefits of safer substitutes. You will meet science, math and writing EALRs

through journal writing, simple experiments, and games.

Hazards on the Homefront Teacher Workshop October 11

King County Solid Waste Division is sponsoring a free workshop on using the *Hazards on the Homefront* guide for teachers of grades 4-12 on Friday, October 11, 2002 from 8AM to 4PM in Seattle. The workshop provides information about safer alternatives to hazardous household products and ways to teach students to improve their health and safety. Participants receive ready-to-use lesson plans that are easy to integrate into existing curriculum.

The workshop also includes:

- Stipend for certified King County teachers on completion of workshop objectives
- Free curriculum materials
- Expert speakers
- Lunch and refreshments
- Time to practice lessons and activities
- Clock hours (available for a fee)
- Opportunities for free, follow-up classroom support

Space is limited to 25 participants and registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested teachers can register by email or phone by contacting Karen Schrantz (information to the upper right).

Hazards on the Homefront Graduates

Need help getting started? Need money for a classroom project?

Schedule a classroom presentation to kick off your unit. Send in a simple grant application and get the money you need for your project. Awards up to \$500! For details, contact Karen Schrantz at (206) 583-0655 or kschrantz@triangleassociates.com.

"Rehab the Lab" Hazard-Free Classroom Workshops

Taught by hazardous waste management experts, this workshop trains secondary school science teachers (grades 7-12) and administrators in laboratory safety and the proper storage and disposal of toxic chemicals. Through hands-on opportunities, teachers learn how to conduct less toxic experiments that still comply with Washington State Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs) for math and science. Each participant will receive a small-scale science kit, a teacher's guide, and lesson plans upon completion of the workshop. Five clock hours are available free to King County teachers. To register or receive more information, call Katie Atkins at (206) 343-9759 x109.

School Pesticide Use Notification Requirements Now in Effect

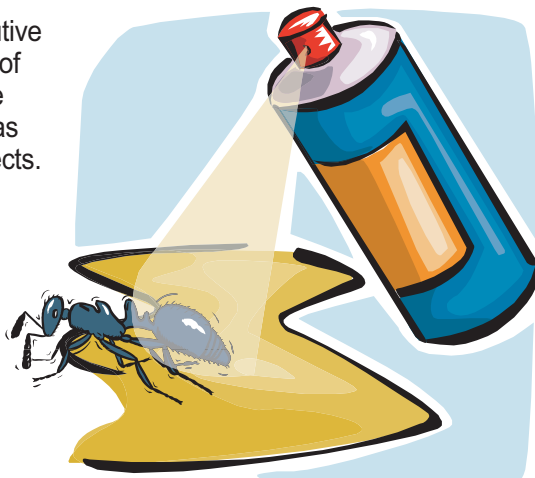
Effective July, 2002, public schools and licensed daycares in Washington are required to establish a system for notifying parents and employees about pesticides being used on school grounds. They are required to:

- Provide annual written notice to parents, guardians, and employees of the school's pest control policies and methods, including how they will notify interested parents.
- Post information at least 48 hours before application.

Exemptions exist when students are

not in school for at least two consecutive days after the application, or in case of emergencies that pose an immediate human health or safety threat, such as an application to control stinging insects.

King County will work with schools that want to reduce their use of pesticides by using alternative strategies including Integrated Pest Management. Information about the law and compliance requirements, Integrated Pest Management, and how to learn more about this issue, can be found at www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste.



King County Piloting Green Schools Program

Is your school interested in improving or expanding its conservation practices and becoming a better steward of the environment? King County is offering a new, pilot program for King County schools beginning this year. Three schools (preferably an elementary, a middle and a high school) will become models for the rest of the County as they are coached, assisted and recognized for their efforts to improve environmental practices in four categories.



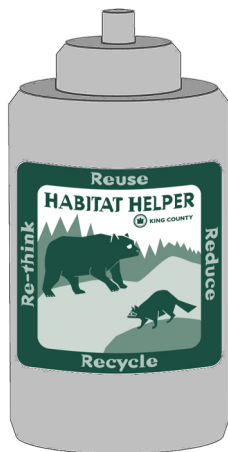
Each Green School candidate will focus on waste reduction and recycling and will choose three additional categories from the following: hazardous materials management; environmental purchasing; reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; litter reduction; water conservation; energy conservation; and addressing environmental issues in the curriculum. Within each category, participating schools, with assistance

from King County, will set goals and decide on specific strategies to reach the goals. At the end of the year, final results will be compared with baseline data. Every school that makes changes to improve its conservation practices will be recognized as a Green School.

If your school is interested in becoming a Green School or in learning what Green Schools are accomplishing in conserving resources and possibly saving money, contact Dale Alekel at (206) 296-8457 or Dale.Alekel@metrokc.gov. Participation during the pilot year may be limited to three schools. Please call soon!

Your Students Could Win These Cool Water Bottles

Are your students taking on action projects that make a difference to their school environment? Whether taking responsibility for recycling, cleaning up a park, teaching others about safer alternatives to hazardous products, or committing to waste free lunches, you and your students may be eligible for recognition and water bottles made from recycled milk jugs from King County. For information on how to become a King County Green Team and get ideas or support for projects you've selected, contact Sara Gersten-Rothenberg at (206) 583-0655 or visit <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/eleme/greenteams.htm>



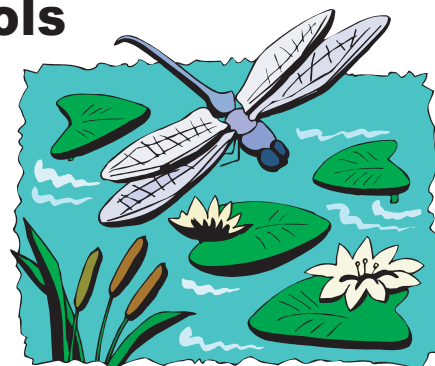
King County Targets At-Risk Youth for Service Program on Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

WSU Cooperative Extension-King County will be working with "at-risk" youth in grades 7-12 this fall to educate them about HHW principles and to provide service learning opportunities for youth to educate their community. The program will train students in the topic of

household hazardous waste and the skills of presentation, leadership, empowerment, facilitation, and project planning. If you have a classroom or group of students interested in participating in this program, contact Darcy Batura at (206) 205-3130 or darcy.batura@metrokc.gov.

Salmon TV Video Profiles Three King County Schools

See how three King County schools are helping the environment. The video, "Studies in Stewardship", first aired on Salmon TV earlier this year, and features Bill Hayden's 5th grade students at Snoqualmie Elementary and their river and wetlands studies, custodian Selim Uzener and Recycling Club students in the daily operation of the Tolt Middle School recycling program, and Don Wilson's horticulture class and their waste-saving compost bin project at West Auburn High



School. To borrow the video for a two-week period, call the King County Recycling Line at (206) 296-4466.



King County School Program Website Offers New Materials

Fun, hands-on lessons on becoming a waste detective, organizing a waste free lunch or snack, or generally reducing waste at school or at home are available as Activity Sheets. Download these and access other resources for teachers and students from the school program website. Check it out at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/schoolpg.htm>



More Cool Websites for Kids

Below are some great resources for students and

educators. Each site will link you to additional sources of information and activities.

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/kidspage/>

This site has facts on recycling and links to games and other fun kid sites.

<http://www.epa.gov/students/projects.htm>

Looking for project ideas? This site is filled with ideas for environmental and service learning projects.

<http://www.epa.gov/globalwarming/visitorcenter/educators/index.html>

If you and your students are interested in learning more about global warming, climate change, or how everyday actions produce greenhouse gas, check out this site.

<http://www.bellmuseum.org/mnideals/watershed/watershed2.html>

This site links you to a game that educates students about watersheds (novice level) and provides a simulation of how planning actions related to national parks, agriculture, neighborhoods, and the city affect local watersheds.

Test Your Knowledge

Can you answer the following questions?

- 1 Back in the late 1970s, we created _____ waste than we do today.
- 2 Do you know where your garbage goes?

3 My toothbrush is made of what?

4 What popular cosmetic is made mostly of solvents?

Find the answers to these and many more questions about the environment on the King County Kids Web Page: www.metrokc.gov/DNR/kidsweb/

For more details on these and other programs, visit <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/schoolpg.htm>



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with this issue,
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